

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06
NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15
DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /107 W
-----031217Z 054425 /12

R 030835Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2798
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL MANDALAY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEA BANGKOK
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 0010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, UNDP, PINT, PFOR, UR, BM
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #52, DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 3

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5. DECADENT MUSIC, DANCING STILL BANNED

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1. RAINS THREATEN RICE HARVEST (UNCL)
HIGHLY UNSEASONAL RAINS, BROUGHT BY A DEPRESSION WHICH
MOVED IN FROM THE ANDAMAN SEA, HAVE BLANKETED MOST OF THE

SOUTHERN HALF OF BURMA SINCE DECEMBER 31. BECAUSE DRY
STORAGE FACILITIES ARE INADEQUATE, THE RAIN COULD DAMAGE
THE RICE CROP CURRENTLY BEING HARVESTED.

2. AGREEMENT GIVEN SOVIET ENVOY (UNCL)
THE GUB ANNOUNCED ITS AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT
OF SERGEI SERGEEVITCH GROUZINOV AS THE NEW SOVIET
AMBASSADOR, REPLACING ALEXEI IVANOVICH ELIZAVENTINE.

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, GROUZINOV WAS
THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ALGERIA FROM 1970-75, AND HAS
SINCE BEEN DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT.

3. UNDP TO FINANCE PTT TRAINING CENTER (UNCL)
THE GUB AND UNDP SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR A TELECOMMUNI-
CATIONS AND POSTAL TRAINING CENTER PROJECT. THE UNDP
CONTRIBUTION IS ESTIMATED AT \$1.1 MILLION, AND THE GUB
COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTION IS ESTIMATED AT 3.1 MILLION KYATS.
THE PROJECT WILL BE EXECUTED BY THE ITU IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE UPU.

4. COUP PLOT TRIAL ARGUMENTS CONCLUDED (UNCL)
ON DECEMBER 31 DEFENSE KCOUNSEL CONCLUDED REPLIES TO
THE PROSECUTION'S FINAL ARGUMENTS, AND THE COURT ANNOUNCED
THAT IT WOULD DELIVER ITS VERDICT IN THE CASE ON JANUARY 11.

5. DECADENT MUSIC, DANCING STILL BANNED (LOU)
THE YEAR- OLD CAMPAIGN AGAINST "DECADENT WESTERN" MUSIC
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AND DANCING WAS CONTINUED ON NEW YEARS EVE IN RANGOON.
LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS WERE INSTRUCTED TO ENFORCE A
YEAR-OLD EDICT PROHIBITING ROCK DANCING AND MUSIC.
EMBASSY SOURCES STATE THAT ONE PARTY WAS ASKED VERY
POLITELY TO DISBAND, WHEREUPON IT PROMPTLY MOVED TO
ANOTHER LOCATION AND CONTINUED.

COMMENT: THE BAN WAS INSTITUTED FOLLOWING PRESIDENT
NE WIN'S CELEBRATED ATTACK LAST CHRISTMAS ON A ROCK BAND
AT A BIG PARTY IN THE INYA LAKE HOTEL. SOME OBSERVERS
HAD SPECULATED THAT A MORE LIBERAL CULTURAL CLIMATE
MIGHT BE INTRODUCED ALONG WITH THE COUNTRY'S NEW
WESTERN-ORIENTED FIRST LADY, BUT THIS APPEARS TO BE
BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN WISHFUL THINKING.
OSBORN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, RICE, PERSONNEL TRAINING, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RANGOO00010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770001-1119
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770185/aaaacwby.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: efdbe4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3672548
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #52, DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 3 CONTENTS
TAGS: EPAP, PINT, PFOR, UR, BM, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/efdbe4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009